

Calapooia Watershed Council

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Mission: Providing opportunities for membership to cooperate in promoting the health of the watershed and its communities.

Calapooia Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) Board of Directors and Council members held their monthly meeting at the Brownsville Community Room, Brownsville, Oregon, on December 14, 2011 beginning at 7:05 p.m.

Present at the meeting were the following members of the Board of Directors:

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|-----------------|---------------|
| Bud Baumgartner | Roger Ruckert |
| Mark Running | John Joiner |
| Connie Burdick | Joe Graville |
| Dee Swayze | |
| George Pugh | |
| Matthew Fiorito | |

Absent from the meetings were the following members of the Board of Directors:

Caitlin Coberly
Dave Furtwangler

Also present at the meeting were:

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Tara Davis | Eric Anderson |
| Denise Lott | Whitney Smith |
| Jim Fields | Tim Otis |
| Tom Parson | Kathy Otis |
| Chris Seal | Bob Volstedt |

On behalf of the CWC Secretary, Operations Coordinator, Denise Lott recorded the minutes.

AGENDA ITEM: Introductions, Announcements

Self- introductions around the room.

AGENDA ITEM: Decision: Approved October 2011 Minutes.

AGENDA ITEM: Guest Presentation

Chris Seal from the US Fish and Wildlife Service gave a presentation about opportunities to build voluntary conservation partnerships in the Willamette Valley Wetlands. Chris began by sharing his experience working with the locals in the Blackfoot Valley of Montana and the major benefits of landowner cooperation. Fish and Wildlife Service's primary tool is to work off refuge with volunteer landowners who are interested in doing conservation work with fish, wildlife and plant habitat.

Outlined below is the latest Willamette Valley Conservation Study.

America's Great Outdoors: Willamette Valley Conservation Study Area
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Region National Wildlife Refuge System

Willamette Valley Study Area:

- Willamette Basin below 1500 feet elevation

Study Area Goal: Develop a Landscape Level Strategy for FWS in 21st Century that includes:

- Healthy Lands and Water

- Public Access to Outdoors
- Support Local Economies
- Community Driven Ideas

Oak Habitat: A Globally Imperiled Ecosystem

- Critically important to migratory and resident wildlife
- Isolated and fragmented stands •High risk of ecosystem function loss in event of fire
- Not protected under current land use regulations.

Landscape Considerations

Stand Conditions

- Succession to Conifer
- Even Age Oak Stands
- Shrub Dominated Understory

High Fuel Loading

- Increased Risk of Disease
- Increased Risk of Wildfire

Ownership

- Mostly Private Ownership
- Parcel Size is Small
- High Cost to Restore

Willamette Valley Conservation Area Strategy

Fee Title Lands:

- Provide Outdoor Access
- Allow for Donation or Title Transfer

Easements:

- Support Traditional Economies & Lifestyles
- Protect Globally Imperiled Eco-system
- Provide Landowners with Economic Incentives
- Provide Opportunity for Long-Term Management Assistance through NWR System
- Evaluate Opportunities to Expand Stand Connectivity

AGEND ITEM: Discussion

- **990 Complete**
- **Open House Line Up:** Same set-up as last year with 3 guest speakers.
- **Work Plan Draft and Next Steps:** Discussed the need for more recreation and more public relations.
- **New Committee Meeting, Schedule and Board of Directors meetings: Decision was approved for a new monthly meeting schedule as follows:**

Project and Management Committees scheduled meetings will not change. The Monthly Council Meetings will continue to have guest speakers, brief project updates and landowner networking but board business will only be discussed every quarter. On quarterly nights, the meeting will start at 6pm, allowing time to discuss board business before the guest speaker’s presentation.

- **ED Communication:** Memos and background with opportunities for input

AGENDA ITEM: Project Updates

- **January 25th Projects Committee Meeting, with the following discussion topics:**
 1. **TNC Partnership:** Oak restoration
 2. **Willamette and Albany Projects:** Moving quickly with positive results
 3. **OPRD Land Use:** Sodom site-open to ideas of what to do with the 60 acres of OPRD land. Possibly create subcommittees around large projects such as this.
 4. **Brownsville Crib Dam:** Tara Davis and Denise Hoffert-Hay submitted a grant proposal to remove the crib dam. We will find out if accepted in Mid-Spring.

- 5. Lower Calapooia confluence area:** Meetings with landowners by Bryant Park. Landowner has inherited a large parcel of land (approx. 200 acres) and would like to use it for conservation work. Tara Davis will keep the council informed on the upcoming communications regarding this land.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:07 pm. The next Calapooia council meeting: January 11th in the Brownsville Community Room from 7-9 pm.

READ AND APPROVED by the Board of Directors on _____, 2012

Secretary